(b) whether Government propose to introduce two-tier courts instead of three-tier as at present and also make the courts sit throughout the year like other Government offices; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As on 1.2.2000, the pendency of cases in Supreme Court, was 20,260. The pendency of cases in High Courts is about 31 lakhs as per latest available information. The number of pending cases in the District/ Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.1998 was approximately 2.04 crore. Age-wise pendency of cases in the Supreme Court of India, High Courts and in the Subordinate Courts is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix, 189, Annexure No. 86]

(b) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(c) The First National Judicial Pay Commision has, *inter-alia* made following recommendation for increasing the number of working days of courts:

> "That till such period the arrears are brought down to manageable limits, the Court vacation period should be cut down by 15 days in a year."
>
> The matter has been left to the High Courts to work out appropriately by curtailing the existing vacation.

Vacancies in CAT

†3315. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1324 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of the posts of judges lying vacant in the various Central Administrative Tribunals, State-wise, as on date;

(b) the reasons for the posts lying vacant; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to fill the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The Central Administrative Tribunal is functioning in accordance with the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, and it has one Principal Bench and Sixteen other Benches located at various seats of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the High Court. The functionaries of Central Administrative Tribunals are Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Judicial Members and Administrative Members. At present one post of Vice-Chairman and seven posts of Administrative Members are lying vacant. A statement indicating the places of vacancies is enclosed. (*See* below).

(a) and (c) The occurrence of vacancies in Central Administrative Tribunals is a continuous process. Process for filling up of the vacancies is undertaken twice in a year. For the two posts of Administrative Members at the principal Bench and one post of Administrative Member at Hyderabad, appointment letters have already been issued. The exercise to fill up the other posts is already underway.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Bench		Vacant post
1.	Guwahati	1	Vice-Chairman
2.	Ahmedabad		Administrative Member
3.	Chandigarh	1	Administrative Member
4.	Ernakulam	1	Administrative Member
5.	Hyderabad	1	Administrative Member
6.	Jodhpur	1	Administrative Member
7.	Principal Bench	2	Administrative Member

Legal system

3316. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observation made in a seminar "Lawyers Impediment or instrument of justice" that the legal system in the country is in a mess;

(b) if so, what are Government's comments on this; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to take the system out of the mess?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such sweeping generalisation can be made against lawyers as a body. The legal system certainly calls for improvement but that it is in a mess is an exaggeration.

(c) Does not arise.